COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

Present: Brad Bortner, Pina Mingace, Mirian Bremer, Daisy Monsalve, Ellen Ellis, Chris Lindgren, Leslie Hergert

Council on Aging Staff present: Ashley Speliotis, Connie Lorenti

Location: This meeting was held in person at the Holland Street Senior Center, located at 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The Council's primary responsibility is to advise the Council on Aging in the promotion and implementation of programs and services to address the needs of the community's older population.

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1. Call to order: 11:09am

2. Approval of Minutes
   - Minutes approved by Brad Bortner, seconded by Ellen Ellis.

3. New Business

   - Senior Community Survey
     - Respondents of the survey, both who do and do not use the center, reported that programs focusing on Active Aging were important to them. Recently, the SCOA joined MCOA's Active Ager's program. This program focuses on the physical side of active aging. Group discussed what active aging means—working on brain health, physical fitness, the arts, socialization, etc.
     - Board strategized both short- and long-term ideas. Ideas included: outside programing and hybrid classes, additional programs that focused on the mind. Board discussed how to better reach seniors but also acknowledged that many classes are at capacity. The suggestion of paying a small fee or registering for classes was brought up.
     - Conversation focused on the newsletter, reformatting the layout, or changing the tagline to encompass active aging in physical, mental and social terms. Other branding and advertising ideas were discussed such as outside signage.
     - Board voted unanimously to create an outreach subcommittee. Marian, Brad and Chris will take part in the committee.

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- Review of Community Listening Session
  - 6 residents attended at Brady Towers, all had positive commentary in general and about the Senior Centers.
  - Board members attended the coffee and conversation group; in general, everyone had positive feedback.
  - Next Listening session will be at Elizabeth Peabody House or Jacques St.

4. Directors Report

- Representative Connolly will be visiting the Ralph and Jenny Center. Seniors will be thanking him for an earmark in the FY ’26 budget for our transportation program.
- Recent article in the paper about Ralph and Jenny Center, the manager of the trust will be retiring, and the city will be the new owner of the building.

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm
6. Next Meeting: March 6, 2026 at 11:00am